

Agenda item : G-1.1

40th Argos Operations Committee meeting
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Report on JTA Meeting

Action

The Operations Committee is invited to note the report on the 25th Meeting of the Argos Joint Tariff Agreement (Buenos Aires, 24-26 October 2005) and advise on future actions as appropriate.

Discussion

1. The 24th meeting on the Argos JTA was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 24 to 26 October 2005, at the kind invitation of the Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN) and Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN) of Argentina. Nine ROCs/ROs were represented at the meeting, together with CLS/Service Argos. The meeting was served by the Joint Secretariat for JCOMM, made up of IOC and WMO Secretariats.
2. One of the key issues of the meeting was to assess the pilot programme for the new tariff structure, adopted in principle at JTA-XXIV, which most ROCs had agreed to join (except Canada, China and United Kingdom) for testing during 2005.
3. The meeting had to clarify a misunderstanding between CLS and the participants in JTA-XXIV regarding the way the time-slot mechanism would be applied to various categories of platforms. It was made clear that all platform categories should be involved, provided that CLS be allowed to modify a coefficient in the tariff formula from 2007 onwards, should a financial problem occur (strong decrease in CLS revenue) following that clarification.
4. Otherwise, and notwithstanding various proposals to improve the new tariff structure, the meeting finally agreed that all JTA members would join in the new tariff scheme from 2006 onwards, on the understanding that the various figures presented would be tested during the coming year and might be adjusted as necessary.
5. Among User Requirements, the question of the "blind orbit" was raised once more, and the NESDIS representative at the meeting, Mr Darrell Robertson, gave all necessary explanations about activities underway to solve the problem.
6. At the chair's initiative, a new agenda item was introduced to review "the future of the JTA". A small intersessional working group was established to deal with this question, more especially from the historical standpoint for the time being, and to report at the next meeting.